

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED

A.

BOROUGH OF
KIDWELLY.

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of
Health.

YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1937.



BURRY PORT :
Haydn Woodliffe, Printer, Red Dragon Press.
1938.





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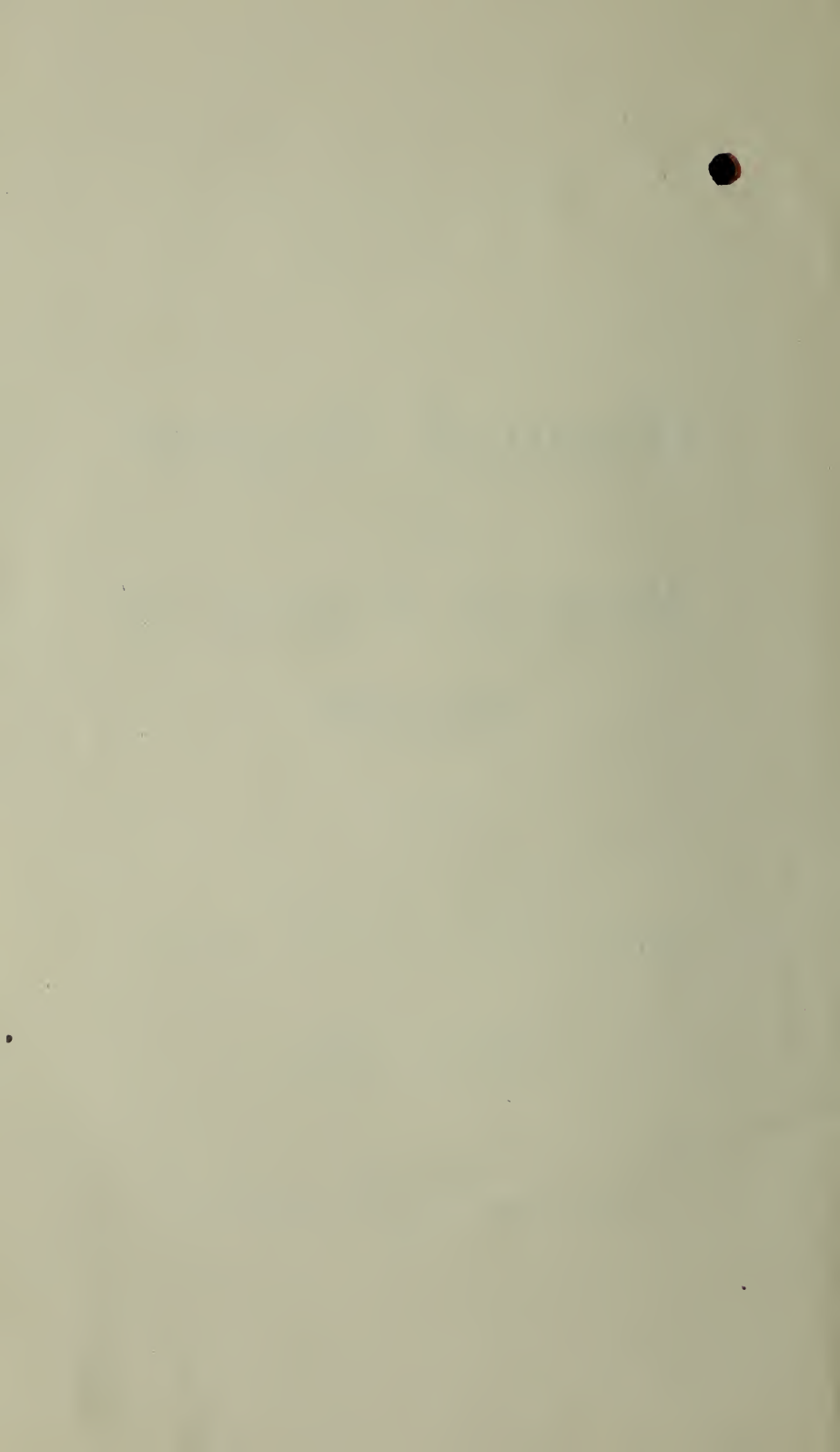
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ● ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

TO THE KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1937.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Urban Area.

1. (a) Your district covers an area of 2,844 acres.
- (b) Population (Registrar General's estimate, 1937) .. 2,960.
- (c) Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) ... 706.
Number of families or separate occupiers ... 722.
- (d) Rateable Value (Reduced) £7,517.
- (e) Sum represented by a Penny Rate on R.R.V. ... £28.
- (f) The inhabitants are chiefly occupied in the various industries which include a Tinplate Works, Brickworks and Quarries. Many are employed as Colliers in the Gwendraeth Valley. There is also farming in parts of the Borough.

Unemployment. The average number of unemployed for the year was 600 weekly, out of an insurable population of 1,275, which is equivalent to 47·13% unemployed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Total. M. F.

- (g) Live { Legitimate 45 27 18 } Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti-
Births { Illegitimate 1 1 — } mated resident population 15·54.
- (h) Still Births ... 4 3 1 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
births 81·63.
- (i) Deaths ... 52 20 32 Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti-
mated resident population 17·56.
- (j) Deaths from puerperal causes :—
Deaths. Rate per 1,000 total (live and
still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ... 1. 20·40.
Other puerperal causes Nil. Nil.
Total ... Nil. Nil.
- (k) Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—
All Infants per 1,000 live births—78·80.
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—59·20.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—29·60.
- (l) Cancer (all ages)—6.

- (m) Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.
- (n) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.
- (o) Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—Nil.

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.

1. (i)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

D. BEYNON DAVIES, M.B., CH.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER :

J. E. VAUGHAN EVANS, F.S.I., M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.,
M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

- (ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Pathological and Bacteriological work, i.e., all swabs, etc., are sent to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, under the Directorship of Dr. A. F. Sladden, and to Dr. L. W. Pole, M.O.H., Llanelly.

- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.** All infectious cases are conveyed to Hospitals by the Carmarthenshire County Council Ambulance.

There are St. John's Ambulance Stations at Llanelly, Trimsaran and Tumble. These ambulances are used in this Area. No contribution is made towards their maintenance. A contributory scheme is now in force.

- (c) **Nursing in the Home.** (a) This is done by Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B. There is no co-ordination with the County Council.

(b) **Infectious diseases.** On account of the danger involved the District Nurse undertakes to communicate with me before she attends on any case of infectious disease, i.e., Tracheotomy in Diphtheria, etc.

- (d) **Orthopaedic.** There is no Orthopaedic Clinic at Kidwelly, but special cases are seen at the Burry Port Memorial Hall & Institute.

Tuberculosis. Cases of Tuberculosis requiring X-Ray are dealt with at the T.B. Clinic, Greenfield Villas, Llanelly. The Tuberculosis Officer is Dr. Martin P. Thomas, who attends on Mondays and Thursdays, and examines and reports on all cases sent to him. Suitable cases are sent to the various Sanatoria. Dr. Thomas will also visit patients at their homes by arrangement with General Practitioners. Reports of the cases are sent by the County M.O.H. to the Local Officer.

- (e) Llanelly and Swansea Hospitals are supported by Voluntary Contributions. They are not subsidised by the County Council.

Llanelly Hospital. Beds : Males 34 ; Females 34 ; Children 8 ; Eye Cases 1 or 2.

Llanelly Infirmary. Beds : Males 28 ; Females 74 ; Children 37. Maternity Ward : 2 and 1 Cot.

Practically all the workmen make periodical contributions, i.e., deductions from wages towards Hospitals, also towards Eye Specialist, and Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

There is an Isolation Hospital at Llannon controlled by the Carmarthenshire County Council. The accommodation is as follows :—

Scarlet Fever, 18 beds.

Diphtheria, 18 beds

Various Sundry Diseases, 8 beds.

2. (i) **Llanelly Infirmary.** Beds : Males 28 ; Females 74 ; Children 37. The Medical Officer in charge is Dr. Oscar Williams, Llanelly.

- (ii) **Public Assistance.** The Officers in the Area are :—D.M.O., Dr. W. David Williams ; and Public Vaccination Officer and Relieving Officer, Mr. Ernest Stone, 32, Springfield Terrace, Burry Port.

- (iii) **Home for Mental Defectives.** At Pantglas there is accommodation for mentally defective children. This is administered by the Joint Counties Board. There is accommodation for 170 girls over seven years of age. All cases under seven years of age have to be sent to the Joint Counties Mental Hospital, Carmarthen.

3. (i) **Midwives.** There is no County Midwife resident in the area—all cases are dealt with by Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B., the District Nurse.

Maternity Mortality. Investigation of Maternal Deaths on the lines of a circular recently issued are carried out by the County Council. In cases of Puerperal Fever the County Council immediately wire to Midwife attending to

- (1). Give up attendance on all cases on her list except case notified.
- (2). Not to take further cases until further notification.

- (ii) **Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.** There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children. Suitable cases are sent to the Llanelly Infirmary.

- (iii) **Health Visiting.** A Child Welfare Centre is held in the English Methodist Church fortnightly. It is subsidised by the local Nursing Association and the County Council. The Welfare is under my jurisdiction. Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B., is the whole-time Health Visitor and School Nurse, and attends at the Welfare Centre. She is engaged by the County Council.

The Kidwelly Nursing Association is maintained by contributions and subscriptions. It is not affiliated to the County Council.

The District Nurse is Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B. Application for the Nurse's services is made through the local Doctors.

- (iv) **Children.** There is a Children's Ward at Llanelly Hospital, where children are received up to eight years of age.

Child Neglect. Inspector James of the N.S.P.C.C. renders help to the County. He has been the means of securing Orthopaedic Treatment, obtaining better accommodation for families living under bad conditions and placing them in Institutions of the County Council.

- (v) **Orthopaedic.** A scheme is under the control of the County Council, and is based on the co-operation of the Educational and Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities. Cases are referred by the Child Welfare Clinic, School M.O.H. and Health Visitor to Mr. A. O. Parker, at his Clinic in Llanelly.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) **Water.** The Town's supply is obtained from wells in different parts of the district, and from deep-seated springs, tapped and delivered by cast-iron mains to the Town.

During the year the following works were carried out :—

Extension of 4" watermain to Hillfield Houses. Eight houses were connected to the water mains.

The Millands Supply. This supply was used constantly from October 15th to December 6th. The Council are considering the chlorination of this supply.

Capel Sul Well. This yields a minimum supply of about 20,000 gallons per 24 hours. The water is carried in mains and distributed to most of the houses in the Northern section of the Town. The storage is 30,000 gallons.

Maesgwenllian Supply. This is from deep-seated springs tapped in a disused Silver Mine adit level, giving a minimum supply of about 25,000 gallons in 24 hours, and delivered to the Southern half of the Town by means of cast-iron mains. At the entrance of the adit there is a 10,000 gallon reinforced concrete storage tank collecting water which previously used to run waste.

Mynyddgarreg Supply. With the aid of hydraulic rams this gives a minimum flow of 8,000 gallons per 24 hours. This water is also carried in mains and public fountains placed along the roadside. This storage is 3,000 gallons.

Drainage and Sanitation. The Hillfield Sewer was extended to take the eight houses now being built for the relief of overcrowding.

The Council have under consideration a Sewerage Scheme for the Borough. Plans have been completed and it is proposed to make a start during the coming year.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** There was no flooding in Lady Street nor Bridge Street. The pollution of the Gwendraeth Fach River has not recurred and it appears that this nuisance has been permanently abated.
3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** There are 43 houses connected to the Hillfield Sewer which discharges into a septic tank near Morfa Mawr Embankment. There are 124 houses which have water closets discharging into cesspools. In the remaining houses the night-soil is buried in the gardens by the tenants. There are 116 cesspools in the Borough.

Public Convenience. It is proposed to erect a public convenience in Station Road in the near future. The land has been acquired.

- (ii) **Scavenging.** House refuse is collected weekly. In the busier parts of the Town it is collected more frequently. Throughout the greater part of the district the house refuse is placed in receptacles in the main thoroughfares in readiness for the Council's cart to remove. The refuse is deposited inside the Arlais Marsh Embankment and therefore strengthens the bank against damage by high tides. The collection of refuse is now extended to the Mynydd-ygarreg district, where it is collected once weekly.

Night-soil is not collected ; it is buried in the gardens by the occupiers of the houses.

- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** See Section D, page 9.
- (iv) **Shops.** No action was considered necessary under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.
- (v) **Smoke Abatement.** Smoke does not give rise to any nuisance.
- (vi) **Swimming Baths and Pools.** There are no such baths within the Urban Area, but during the summer months a great deal of sea-bathing is enjoyed by the inhabitants and numerous visitors.
- (vii) **Eradication of bed bugs.**
 - (1) The number of (a) Council houses, (b) other houses, (i) found to be infested, (ii) disinfested ;

(a) (i) Nil.	(ii) Nil.
(b) (i) Nil.	(ii) Nil.
 - (2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs where necessary is by fumigation with "Cescones" and spraying with "Zaldecide."

- (3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses is the furniture and clothing is examined before the tenants leave the houses from which they are removed.
- (4) The work of disinfection when necessary is done by the Council employees.
- (5) The whole of the clothing and bedding are burnt to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

4. **Schools.** The four Schools in the Borough are elementary. They are kept in a sanitary condition. The water supply is from the Council's main, and is satisfactory.

The Schools Medical Officers are Dr. Gladys Herbert and Mr. G. Ungood Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S., and I work in conjunction with them. It has not been necessary to close the Schools on account of any epidemic. As suggested in a memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School 1927 the power to exclude any individual children and contacts is used to the best advantage.

4. **Burry Port Central School.** This School which was opened on May 23rd, 1936, is attended by 62 children from this Borough who are conveyed to and fro by Bus.

Health and Education. Lectures are given periodically on infant feeding, ante-natal hygiene, etc.

Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928. There are no premises where Rag Flock is manufactured.

Mortuary. Five Post Mortem examinations were held in the Council's Mortuary, Council Offices, Kidwelly, as compared with three for the previous year.

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.

Number inspected—8.

Number certified for limewashing by Inspector—1.

SECTION D.—Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	652
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	652
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	19
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	19
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	18
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	11
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local authority or their officers	3
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	8
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	1
(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv.—Overcrowding :—					
(a).— (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	19
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	21
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	120½
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c).— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	15
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	51½
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Housing Generally. There are eight non-parlour type houses being built for the relief of overcrowding. This will make a total of 32 houses built by the Council ; 23 for overcrowding, 9 for demolition.

There were five houses built by private enterprise during the year.

Vacant Houses. There are four vacant houses in the Borough.

Inspection of Houses by Ministry of Health. On December 13th an Inspection of Housing Conditions in the Urban Area was made by Mr. H. Bowman, Housing Inspector of the Ministry of Health, accompanied by Mr. Owain Evans, General Inspector for Wales, and Dr. W. M. Lloyd, Medical Officer of Health for the County.

As a result of the survey 18 houses were scheduled for demolition, and the Council are awaiting the views of the Ministry before building any more houses.

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) **Milk Supply.** There are 20 registered Milk Vendors in the area.

Licences are granted on the lines of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. No licences have been issued under the Milk Special Designation order 1936.

Examinations of all registered premises with regard to cow sheds and dairies are made by the Surveyor and myself. Several of the cow sheds require attention and notices have been served on the owners concerned.

The dairies are kept in a very good condition and particular attention is paid to cans and utensils.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts County Inspectors take samples of milk for examination in regard to addition of water and percentage of fat.

25 samples of Milk were taken and sent for bacteriological examination. The examinations were made at Aberystwyth under the control of Mr. S. B. Thomas, M.Sc., Advisor of Dairy Agriculture. The results on the whole show an improvement each year.

The Farmers and Vendors are instructed in the methods of clean milking and clean milk. Sutherland Thompson's milk test is used and the pads are shown to the Farmers or Vendors. By these methods greater attention has been paid to cleanliness and cooling of milk, but there is still room for improvement.

6 samples were submitted for tuberculosis examination, all of which were found to be negative.

Butter and Cheese Makers. There are 31 in the district and the majority of the premises are kept very clean.

- (b) **Meat, &c.** Bakehouses, Shops and Vehicles are regularly inspected and always kept under observation.

Slaughterhouse. Public Abattoir. This is the Council's property and a part-time Caretaker is employed.

The Council has issued 10 licences to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

There are no licenced slaughterhouses in the district.

The total tolls for the year were £59/14/6.

Ante and Post Mortem Examinations. This is done by the part-time Caretaker.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	—	188	121	736	390
Number inspected	—	188	121	736	390
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—

Public Health Meat Regulations are complied with.

- (c) **Adulteration, etc.** No action has been necessary under the various powers.
- (d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** When necessary samples are examined by the Beck Laboratory, Swansea.
- (e) **Nutrition.** Advantage is taken at the Welfare Centre of instructing mothers as to the value of nutrition.
- (f) **Shell-fish (Molluscan).** There are no Shell-fish beds in the district.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied at the Council's expense when necessary, but owing to the immediate admission of cases of Diphtheria to the County Isolation Hospital, few cases receive antitoxin before admission.

There have been no cases of Malaria or Dysentery notified during the year.

According to Infectious Diseases Regulation 1927, a supply of Forms are provided for notification of Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917. Disinfection of premises and articles exposed to infection is carried out by the Council.

- (2) **Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases** There were five deaths from Influenza, making a death Rate of 1·68 which appears high compared with ·45 for England and Wales.

No advantage has been taken by parents with regard to Diphtheria immunization.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria ...	1	1	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia ..	9	Nil.	4
Erysipelas ...	4	Nil.	Nil.

- 4 (a) **Prevention of Blindness.** No action was necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925, or Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936.
- (b) **Public Health Act 1936, Section 172 (Prevention of Tuberculosis).** Steps would be taken to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract from participating in the Milk Trade.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62. There have been no cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which have refused Sanatorium treatment and who are not in suitable surroundings, thus avoiding risk of conveying infection. It has not been necessary to apply Section 62 with regard to the removal of any person.

5. **TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1937**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5		1						
15								
25	1	1		1				1
35								
45								
55								
65	1			1				
Totals	2	2		2				1

The attention of the Medical Practitioners who had not notified cases had their attention drawn to their obligations under Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1899, Sub-Section 3 of Section 16.

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop- ulations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administ- rative County
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :—				
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
Deaths :—				
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51
Notifications :—				
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age...	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	} Not available		
Others	2.26			
Total	3.23			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	} Not available		
Others	2.17			
Total	3.11			
Notifications :—				
Puerperal Fever	} 13.93	} 17.59	} 11.52	} 4.15
Puerperal Pyrexia				

Causes of Death in the Kidwelly Borough, 1937.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	..	20	32
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital debility and Premature births...	...	...	...	...	..	3	—
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	..	..	1	—
Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						Legitimate ...	2 ... —
						Illegitimate ...	1 ... —
						Total	3
Live Births						Legitimate ...	26 ... 18
						Illegitimate ...	1 ... —
						Total	27 18
Stillbirths						Legitimate ...	3 ... 1
						Illegitimate ...	— ... —
						Total	3 1
Population						2,960	
Comparability Factor						1.13	

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.2.

April, 1938.

We remain,

Your obedient Servants,

D. BEYNON DAVIES, M.O.H.

J. E. VAUGHAN EVANS, Sanitary Inspector.







